

REMARKS

Claims 1-24 are pending, of which claims 2-6 and 15-24 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. By this Amendment, claims 1, 7 and 12 have been amended for clarity. No new matter has been introduced introduced. Support can be found, e.g., on page 19, line 7+ in the specification or col. 11, line 22+ in the original patent. Currently, claims 1 and 7-14 are submitted for consideration.

In furtherance to the Office Action dated April 16, 2003, it has been asserted that with respect to the feed back loop means, the engine air-fuel ratio is feedback controlled by monitoring air-fuel sensor (39). However, it is noted that **Adamczyk** discloses feedback-controlling the air/fuel ratio to a stoichiometric ratio, and does not disclose or suggest any adaptive controller or adaptation mechanism.

By contrast, the present application as now set forth in claim 1 from which claims 7-14 depend requires the use of an adaptive controller with the adaptation mechanism, so that the air/fuel ratio can be immediately converged to a desired value (i.e., not limited to the stoichiometric ratio) no matter how the behavior of the plant (engine) has changed.

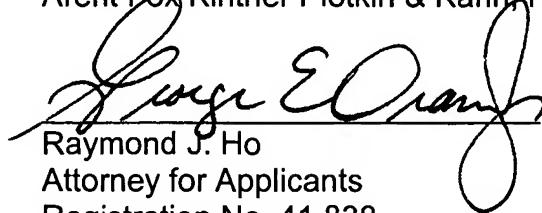
In view of the above remarks, Applicants therefore request that claims 1 and 7-14 be found allowable, and this application passed to issue.

If for any reason the Examiner determines that the application is not now in condition for allowance, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner contact, by telephone, the Applicants' undersigned attorney at the indicated telephone number to arrange for an interview to expedite the disposition of this application.

In the event this paper is not timely filed, the Applicants respectfully petition for an appropriate extension of time. Any fees for such an extension together with any additional fees may be charged to Counsel's Deposit Account No. 01-2300.

Respectfully submitted,

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